

Appln No. 09/719,411
Amdt date January 7, 2004
Reply to Office action of July 8, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office action of July 8, 2003, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 9 and 10, and canceled claim 4. Claims 1-3 and 5-12 are currently pending. Claim 1 was amended to include the limitations of claim 4, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Claim 2 was amended to delete redundant language that was imported from claim 2 into claim 1. As claims 2-3, 5-8 and 12 now depend from the allowable claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are also in form for allowance.

Applicant has also amended claims 9 and 10 to be in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, as suggested by the Examiner. Because the Examiner indicated that claims 9-11 would be allowable if not dependent on rejected base claims, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9-11 are now in proper form for allowance.

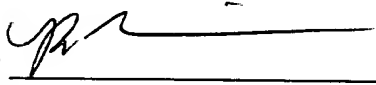
On pages 2-3 of the Office action, claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 12 are rejected as anticipated by Antonucci et al. Applicant traverses this rejection and reserves the right to file a continuation application to prosecute the original Claim 1. However, in the spirit of cooperation, claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitations of the original claim 4, that "the closing cylinder engages with a follower of the closing system through a rotatable paddle." The Examiner has indicated that the limitations of claim 4 are not found in Antonucci. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Antonucci does not teach or suggest this limitation and respectfully request that the rejections to this claim and its dependent claims 2-3, 5-8 and 12 be withdrawn.

On page 3 of the Office action, claim 3 is rejected as obvious over Antonucci in light of Benoit. Applicants submit that claim 3 now depends on an allowable base claim, and respectfully request that the rejection to claim 3 be withdrawn.

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In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 1-3 and 5-12.

Respectfully submitted,
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